



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂ or L-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

4. – 19. (Canceled)

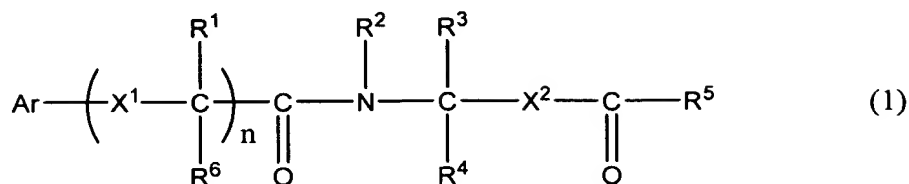
20. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

21. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

22. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

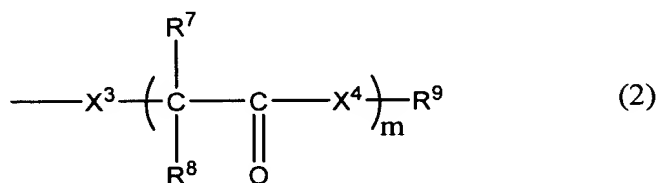
23. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is L-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

24. (Currently Amended) A compound having a naphthyl group and represented by the following Formula (1) or a salt thereof



wherein

R⁵ represents a group represented by the following Formula (2),



m represents an integer of 0 or 1,

when m is 1:

Ar represents a unsubstituted naphthyl group or a substituted naphthyl group having one or more substituents,

R¹, R² and R³ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~a substituted straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,~~

R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted basic amino acid side chain, an unsubstituted amino group, an unsubstituted amidino group, an unsubstituted guanidino group, an unsubstituted straight-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain amidinoalkyl group

having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, ~~a substituted basic amino acid side chain having one or more substituents, a substituted amino group having one or more substituents, a substituted amidino group having one or more substituents, a substituted guanidino group having one or more substituents, a substituted straight chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted straight chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, or a substituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,~~

X¹ is a single bond or an unsubstituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, or a ~~unsubstituted~~ substituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, wherein said substituent is selected from the group consisting of a straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a straight-chain

oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and a branched-chain

oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

X² is a single bond or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom or -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n is 1,

X³ represents -O- or -NR¹⁰-,

X⁴ represents -O- or -NR¹¹-,

R⁷ represents a hydrogen atom ~~an amino acid side chain derivable from, the side chain of~~ an amino acid having a hydrophobic side chain selected from the group consisting of valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, phenylglycine, threonine, and tryptophan, or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁸, R¹⁰, and R¹¹ each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁹ represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms, ~~and~~

~~when m is 0:~~

~~Ar represents a unsubstituted naphthyl group or a substituted naphthyl group having one or more substituents,~~

~~R¹, R² and R³ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted straight chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted straight chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,~~

~~R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted basic amino acid side chain, an unsubstituted amino group, an unsubstituted amidino group, an unsubstituted guanidino group, an unsubstituted straight chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, a substituted basic amino acid side chain having one or more substituents, a substituted amino group having one or more substituents, a substituted amidino group having one or more substituents, a substituted guanidino group having one or more substituents, a substituted straight chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted~~

~~straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted straight chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, or a substituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,~~

~~X¹ is a single bond or an unsubstituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, or a unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, wherein said substituent is selected from the group consisting of a straight chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a straight chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and a branched chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,~~

~~X² is a single bond or a straight chain or branched chain alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,~~

~~R⁶ represents NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,~~

~~n is 1, and~~

~~X³ represents O or NR⁺⁰,~~

~~X⁴ represents O or NR¹¹,~~

~~R⁷ represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain derivable from an amino acid having a hydrophobic side chain selected from the group consisting of valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, phenylglycine, threonine, and tryptophan, or a straight chain or branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,~~

~~R⁸, R¹⁰, and R¹¹ each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,~~

~~R⁹ represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24,
wherein

Ar of Formula (1) represents a 1-naphthyl group or a 2-naphthyl group,

R¹, R² and R³ of Formula (1) each represent a hydrogen atom,

R⁴ of Formula (1) represents a basic amino acid side chain having an amino group or a guanidino group,

X¹ of Formula (1) is a methylene group,

X² of Formula (1) is a single bond,

R⁶ of Formula (1) represents -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon

atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms, n of Formula (1) represents an integer of 1, and R⁵ of Formula (1) represents a group represented by Formula (2), wherein X³ of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-, X⁴ of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-, R⁷ of formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, ~~an amino acid side chain derivable from the side chain of~~ a neutral amino acid having a hydrophobic side chain selected from the group consisting of valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, phenylglycine, threonine, or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, R⁸ of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, R⁹ of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m of Formula (2) represents an integer of 0 or 1.

26. (Previously Presented) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. (Previously Presented) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, a compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24 that exhibits a 50% inhibitory concentration of cAMP production (IC50) of 100 nM or less, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28. (Previously Presented) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said composition is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

29. (Previously Presented) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory compound has a molecular weight of 800 or less.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of whitening which comprises, contacting an object to be whitened with an effective amount of a whitening agent comprising as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating immunofunction in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of a immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating appetite in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of an appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24.

33. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24 and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of whitening which comprises, contacting an object to be whitened with an effective amount of a whitening agent comprising as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 27.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating immunofunction in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of a immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 27.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating appetite in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of an appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 27.

37. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 27 and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

38. (Previously Presented) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating immunofunction in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of a immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 26.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating appetite in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of an appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 26.

41. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 26 and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 2 was previously canceled.

Claims 1 and 4-19 are canceled herein.

Claims 24, 25, 30-32, 34-36, 39, and 40 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 24, 25, 30-32, 34-36, 39, and 40 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed and by the specification at page 11, line 1 to page 12, line 5 and page 20, line 25 to page 24, line 13.

No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment.